

PH0010693

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

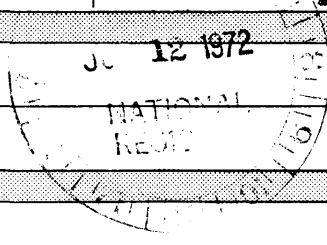
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 27 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Stick Style House at Stony Creek

AND/OR HISTORIC:



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Prospect Hill

CITY OR TOWN:
Branford

STATE Connecticut	CODE 09	COUNTY: New Haven	CODE 009
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. MacDonald Warner

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Prospect Hill 32 Prospect Hill, Stony Creek

CITY OR TOWN:
Branford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Branford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1966

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
51 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hartford

STATE:
Connecticut

CODE:
09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: New Haven
ENTRY NUMBER: 10693
DATE: 12/27/72
FOR NPS USE ONLY

3rd District Congressman: Robert Ciaino

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This stick style house is a magnificent example of its style, complete with all the necessary elements. The organic framing, so apparent on the tower where it is flush with the exterior walls, and elsewhere in the framing of the porch and where brackets finish the overhanging eaves, is the epitome of the stick style expression. At second floor level, on the dormer and the balcony, there is scroll work. Here too are three rows of shingling, regularly indented, although elsewhere the siding is plain, either clapboarding, or, on one small section of the rear, flushboarding. The extension to the west side is a recent one, but is harmonious. A local story that there is brick in the space between the inner and outer walls was verified by a tour of the house, for in the attic the brick can be seen rising between the walls.

The porch is merely an extension of the framing of the house. Its gothic arches have trefoils at the spandrels. At the center arch a turned bar spans the opening at the spring of the arch. Above the arches are framing members, giving the porch its angular appearance. The railing is moulded, and beneath are groups of turned balusters alternating with groups of scroll saw work of arches which copy the larger ones with trefoil design; in the center there is a single turned baluster.

The window openings on the front porch at both levels are long, reaching nearly to the floor. On the second floor they provide a beautiful view of Long Island Sound. In the tower and dormers the windows are smaller and arched. All have louvered shutters conforming to the shape of the window.

Early photographs and stereoptican views show cresting along the roof ridges. The trim was painted a contrasting color; it is now the same shade as the siding and the cresting is gone. At the peaks of the porch, dormers, and tower are tall, graceful finials. At the second floor of the porch are urns completing the corners of the railing. Both the urns and particularly the finials are fine finishing details to a wonderfully detailed and well executed house.

The interior has kept its integrity as completely as has the exterior. The ceilings are particularly ornate, with rosettes and panels of plaster work surrounding the chandeliers. In the living room is a large panel of plaster work with small medallions in the corners which contain children in different activities which represent the four seasons of the year—spring, summer, autumn and winter. There is much stenciling, all original, in most of the upstairs rooms and in the stairway. One of the upstairs rooms has a parquet floor; the rest are less fancy.

The house has survived shore storms and hurricanes and floods and retains its place of prominence at Stony Creek.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

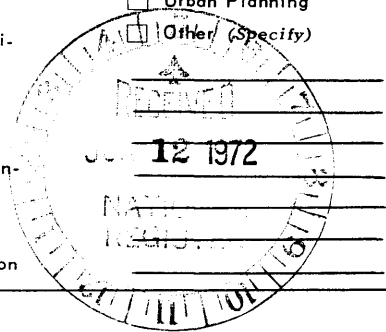
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1878

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Standing on the edge of a cliff in the Stony Creek district of Branford, this large house commands a spectacular view of Long Island Sound and the Thimble Islands. Stony Creek is a separate area of the town, with its own services and governing body. One of the oldest fishing villages in the vicinity, it was once a summer resort, with the Stony Creek Playhouse, a summer theatre with professional actors. Just off shore are the Thimble Islands: the larger ones were once accessible by passenger launches and are still occupied by summer houses. On Honey Island, Captain Kidd is said to have buried treasure.

This house is a reflection of the period of the late 19th century of the leisure and opulence of the area. The matching carriage house to the rear indicates that the estate was of some size and importance. The road ends just before the house and a circular driveway loops around in front of the carriage house, now used as a garage. Beyond is a cottage, part of the property, now rented for income.

The property was the summer home of William Judson Clark of Southington (b. 1825). Clark was an interesting man of varied interests and talents. As a young man, the son of a farmer, he worked hard at home, going to school only when he could be spared from the farm. Despite this, he did very well in school and at the age of twenty-one was in charge of a school at West Avon, Connecticut. In 1847 he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Henekiah C. Cummings; together they began Cummins and Clark and leased a store at Hitchcocks Basin on the Farmington Canal in the southern part of the town of Southington. Their three-year lease was not renewed, and Clark went on to the west, to California during the Gold Rush. By 1854 he had returned and established William J. Clark and Company with his two younger brothers, Charles and Henry, in the Hilldale section of Southington. They made and patented inventions in the line of bolt machinery and made nuts, bolts, washers, and screws. With the coming of the Civil War, the Clark Company was busy making machinery to manufacture gun screws. William served in the 20th Connecticut Regiment for three years and was discharged as a lieutenant. In 1882 he was nominated by the Republican Party for the State Senate seat from Southington and won. Upon his retirement, he lived at the Stony Creek house with his wife, Sarah Jane Bradley and only

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, Connecticut: A Guide to Its Roads, Lore, and People. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1936.
 Interview with the present owner, Mrs. MacDonald Warner; also V.J. Scully. Scully, Vincent J., The Stick Style and the Shingle Style. Yale University Press, New Haven, 1971.
 The Commemorative Biographical Record of New Haven County. Deacon Theodosius Clark and the Honorable Lillias J. Clark, Biography and Genealogy. 1902.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	72	44	43
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE: May 17, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 61 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford

STATE: Connecticut

CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 13, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/27/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12-22-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Connecticut	
COUNTY	New Haven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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		DEC 27 1972

(Number all entries)

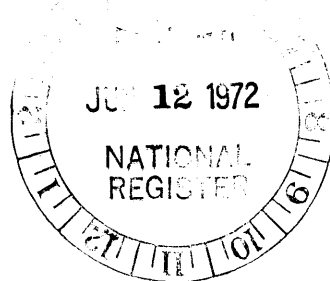
#8 Significance (Stick Style House at Stony Creek)

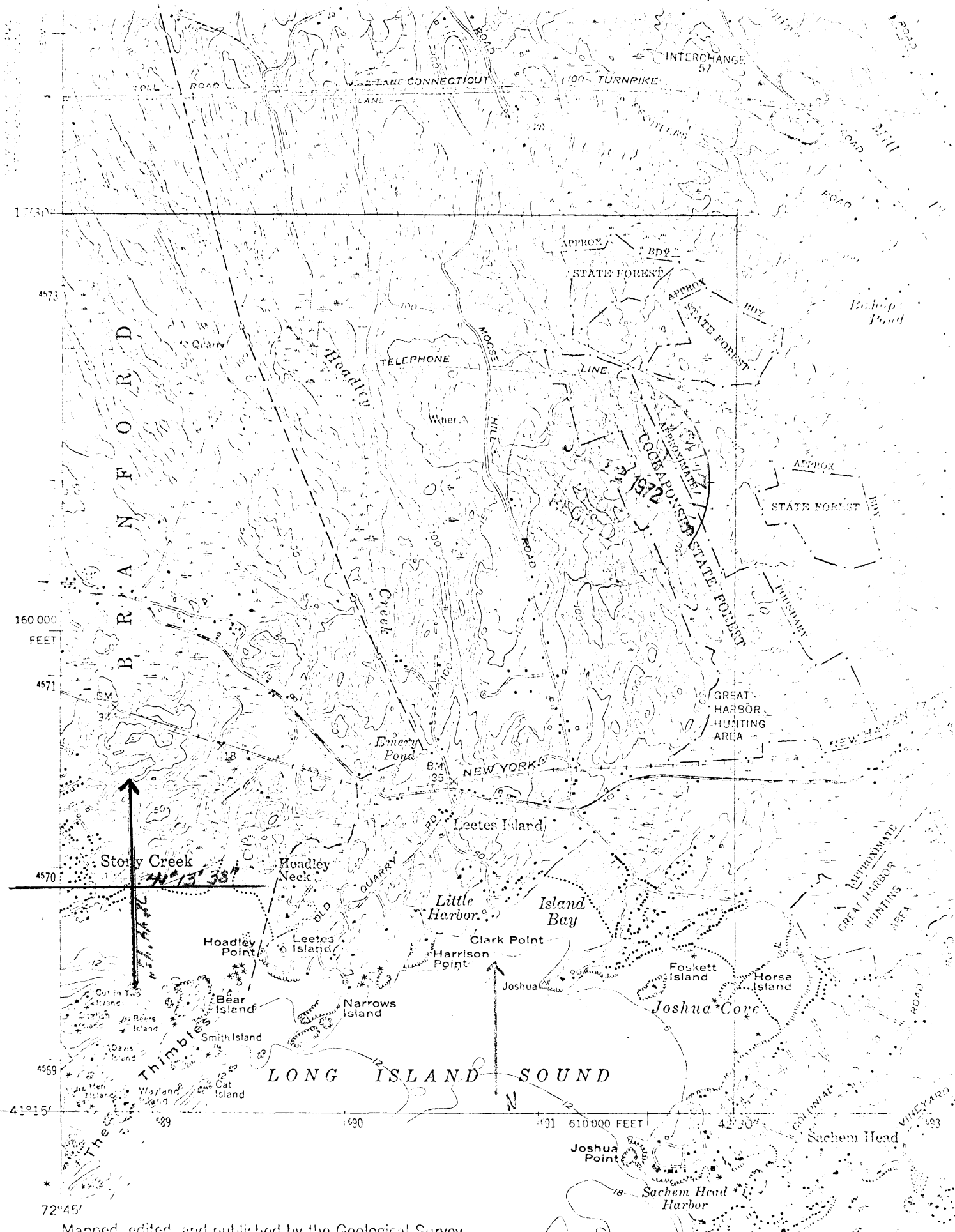
surviving daughter of three, Rosalind. She later became an art critic and writer.

The house is a very important structure, the most impressive in the area. Professor Vincent J. Scully of Yale finds it one of the best examples of the stick style of the late 19th century. Of a similar building in New Jersey by Carl Pfeiffer, 1876, Scully says "it displays the apogee of skeletal expression--all stick and no wall, with boldly expressed energies in its tensile relationship."¹ He goes on to say, in a particularly apt passage, that by 1876, the stick style had developed into "an interwoven basketry of sticks".² The front porch, projecting forward, the tall, steep-sided tower, and the plainer rear, but still with framing elements exposed, or laid on, and the brackets and overhanging eaves, all contribute to the angular, graceful "bastetry" of Mr. Scully's description.

¹Vincent J. Scully, The Stick Style and the Shingle Style.

²Ibid.





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey